

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 18-30 32-34 and 36-38 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 22, 34 and 36-38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or another application. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 18 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Each of claims 18 and 26 has been rewritten in accordance with the Examiners suggestion. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 26, and claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-21, 23-25, 27-30, 31 and 32 have been amended so each depends directly from independent claim 18.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments and no estoppels are intended thereby. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

OFFICE ACTION

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claim 34 has been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to this claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

(1) Claims 1, 19-24, 27-29, 32, 33 and 36-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huston et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,903,884). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant notes that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. (quoting *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 1, 22 and 36-38, have been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. Regarding claims 19-21, 23, 24, 27-29, 32 and 33, as previously discussed, each of the aforementioned claims has been amended to depend from independent claim 18, which was indicated allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 19-21, 23, 24, 27-29, 32 and 33 are allowable over Houston for at least this reason.

In light of the aforementioned comments and amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection to the claims be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 30 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Huston et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,903,884). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claim 34 has been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to this claim. Regarding claim 30, it has been amended to depend from claim 18, which was indicated allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 30 is allowable for at least this reason.

In light of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection to claims 30 and 34 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

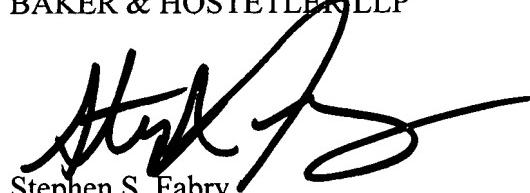
An extension of time is not believed to be due at this time however any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (202) 861-1714.

Respectfully submitted,

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